

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 297956  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CA-01 /076 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:JJ  
APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST  
HA/PW:FSIEVERT (DRAFT)  
-----040609 141957Z /43

R 141612Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, ICRC, ET, SO

SUBJECT: POW'S IN ETHIOPIAN CONFLICTS

1. THE WAR IN THE OGADEN BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA  
(AND/OR THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT DEPENDING ON  
YOUR PERSPECTIVE) ESCALATED IN MID-JULY. SINCE THAT TIME,  
WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF NOR SEEN ANY INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS  
REPORTS ON THE CONDITIONS OF PRISONERS. WE HAVE SEEN  
REPORTS THAT EPMG AND GSDR OFFICIALS WERE EXPERIENCING  
DIFFICULTY IN CONVINCING FRONT-LINE TROOPS THAT PRISONERS  
SHOULD BE TAKEN. BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA HAVE SIGNED  
THE GENEVA CONVENTION.

2. A DECEMBER 11 REUTERS STORY HAS RAISED THE QUESTION  
OF THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS BY THE ERITREAN LIBERATION  
FORCES IN THAT EMBATTLED PROVINCE. ETHIOPIAN PRISONERS  
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ARE QUOTED IN THE STORY AS FEELING THAT INTERNATIONAL RED  
CROSS NOT ENSURING THAT CERTAIN BASIC NECESSITIES ARE  
BEING PROVIDED. PRISONERS NOTED UNHAPPILY THAT EPMG HAD  
NO INTEREST IN THEM EITHER, AS EPMG ASSERTS THAT ERITREANS  
HAVE TAKEN NO PRISONERS AND THEREFORE THERE WAS NO POW  
PROBLEM.

3. REQUEST MISSION CONTACT ICRC AND ASCERTAIN IF RED CROSS IS AWARE OF ANY ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR PRISONERS BY EITHER SIDE IN OGADEN. DEPT. ALSO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ICRC HAS BEEN ABLE TO VISIT PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS (IF ANY EXIST). ERITREA IS A SPECIAL PROBLEM BEING A DOMESTIC INSURGENCY BUT DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE ICRC THOUGHTS ON PRISONERS IN THAT CONFLICT AS WELL. IF ICRC HAS NO INFORMATION ON THESE SUBJECTS, DEPT. WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT THEY PROPOSE TO DO TO OBTAIN IT. FYI: IF ICRC IS DENIED ACCESS TO POW CAMPS, USG MIGHT BE WILLING MAKE DEMARCHE TO COUNTRY INVOLVED, IF ICRC FEELS THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL. END FYI.

4. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO ACCEPT INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT IN CONFIDENCE FROM ICRC IF THEY WISH. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POW  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977STATE297956  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** KPGARLAND:JJ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, ET, SO, ICRC  
**To:** GENEVA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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